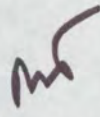


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FM WARSAW 131010Z OCT 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO TEL NO 951 OF 13 OCT 82
REPEATED TO PRIORITY MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKMIS GENEVA,
SAVING TO EAST BERLIN, PRAGUE, SOFIA, BELGRADE, BUCHAREST, BUDAPEST,
HELSINKI, STOCKHOLM, PARIS, BONN, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS
AND MODUK.

POLAND 

1. COMMUNICATIONS TO GDANSK AND OTHER POLISH COASTAL CITIES REMAINED CUT OFF YESTERDAY. REPORTS REACHING JOURNALISTS IN WARSAW INDICATED THAT THE LENIN SHIPYARD AND A NUMBER OF OTHER FACTORIES IN GDANSK HAD AGAIN GONE ON STRIKE. OTHERS WERE OPERATING A GO-SLOW.
2. YESTERDAY MORNING WORKERS FROM MORNING AND AFTERNOON SHIFTS ARRIVED TOGETHER AT THE LENIN SHIPYARD AT 6AM, FEARING A LOCK-OUT, BUT THIS DID NOT TAKE PLACE. THE STRIKERS, WHO EVIDENTLY COMPRISED A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE TOTAL WORKFORCE OF 16,000, DECLARED AN INTENTION TO CONTINUE THE STRIKE DAILY FROM 6AM TO 2PM UNTIL THEIR DEMANDS WERE MET (SEE MY TELNO 944). THUS ONLY THE AFTERNOON MAINTENANCE SHIFT CONTINUES NORMAL WORK. AT SOME STAGE DURING THE DAY, THE SHIPYARD WAS PLACED UNDER MILITARY CONTROL, IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THIS WILL AFFECT PLANNED CONTINUED STRIKE ACTION TODAY.
3. THERE WAS AN ATTEMPTED MARCH BY SOME 3000 DEMONSTRATORS THROUGH THE STREETS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS, AND A GATHERING BY THE SOLIDARITY MONUMENT NEAR THE SHIPYARD. BOTH DEMONSTRATIONS WERE DISPERSED BY SECURITY FORCES. ACCORDING TO ONE JOURNALIST, SECURITY FORCES THEN CONTINUED TO PATROL THE STREETS OF GDANSK IN FORCE IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE THE POPULATION. IT IS SAID THAT THEY FIRED TEAR GAS, SMOKE AND PERCUSSION GRENADES AT SMALL GROUPS OF PEDESTRIANS OR AT RANDOM FROM THEIR ARMoured VEHICLES.
4. THERE ARE FEW REPORTS OF UNREST FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, THOUGH TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS TO GRUDZIAZ, SOME 100 KILOMETRES SOUTH OF GDANSK WERE CUT OFF DURING THE DAY. REPORTS FROM NOWA HUTA (NEAR KRAKOW) INDICATE THAT SOME WORKERS THERE ARE CONSIDERING STRIKE ACTION TODAY BUT OTHERS MAY WISH TO DELAY THIS UNTIL 10 NOVEMBER, ON WHICH DAY A GENERAL STRIKE HAS BEEN CALLED FOR BY UNDERGROUND SOLIDARITY LEADERS, (THIS IS THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE REGISTRATION OF SOLIDARITY.)

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5. THE AUTHORITIES HAVE AGAIN ATTEMPTED TO PLAY DOWN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STRIKES. AT A LUNCHTIME PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY GIVEN BY URBAN, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, IT WAS STRESSED THAT NORMAL WORK CONTINUED AT MOST FACTORIES IN THE GDANSK AREA, AND STRIKE PARTICIPATION AT THE LENIN SHIPYARD WAS LIMITED TO 10-13% OF THE WORKFORCE. ON 11 OCTOBER ONLY 8 FACTORIES HAD GONE ON STRIKE HE SAID. AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO PLAY UP THE HOOLIGAN NATURE OF THE RIOTS. URBAN SAID THE AUTHORITIES HAD MADE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF ARRESTS (REPORTS REACHING JOURNALISTS IN WARSAW SPEAK OF AT LEAST 150). HE ADMITTED THAT RIOTERS HAD ATTEMPTED TO BUILD BARRICADES AND THAT UNREST HAD CONTINUED LATE INTO THE NIGHT. POLISH TV ALSO GAVE COVERAGE TO THE RIOTING.

6. THE RIOT CONTROL METHODS OF THE AUTHORITIES IN GDANSK ARE HEAVY-HANDED AND INDISCRIMINATE. WE HAVE ALSO HAD A NUMBER OF REPORTS OF POLICE HARASSMENT OF SOME WESTERN (BUT NOT BRITISH) NEWS TEAMS (AND PARTICULARLY OF POLISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED BY THEM). THIS HAS TAKEN THE FORM OF ARREST, DETENTION AND TEMPORARY CONFISCATION OF DOCUMENTS.

7. FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVINGS ADDRESSEES.

JAMES

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

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